

MSP for agricultural produces to encourage organic farming

666. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to announce Minimum Support Price (MSP) of various cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits to encourage organic farming, is under Government's consideration so that farmers could get fair price for their produce; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):
(a) and (b) There is no separate Minimum Support Price for crops under organic farming. Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for twenty two (22) crops namely Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Arhar, Moong, Urad, Groundnut-in-shell, Soyabean, Sunflower, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Cotton, Wheat, Barley, Gram, Masur (Lentil), Rapeseed/Mustardseed, Safflower, Jute and Copra and Fair & Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), views of the State Governments, concerned Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors. Producers have the option to sell their produce to Government agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

Organic produce commands a higher price in the market in comparison to non-organic produce. Government is promoting organic farming in a cluster approach to bring down its costs, which is expected to increase return to the farmers, through Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PMKY) using traditional resources and organic products.

Suicide by farmers owing to insufficient rains

667. DR. PRADEEPKUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the incidents of suicide by farmers in the country owing to insufficient rains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any request has been received from State Governments in this regard for release of financial assistance; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to prevent the farmers community from committing suicides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):
(a) and (b) Eight (8) States namely, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra,

Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have reported occurrence of drought on account of deficit rainfall in Kharif 2015. The Financial Memorandum seeking Central assistance have been submitted by Karnataka for ₹ 3830.84 crore, Chhattisgarh for ₹ 6093.79 crore, Madhya Pradesh for ₹ 4821.64 crore, Maharashtra for Rs. 4002.82 crore, Odisha for ₹1687.56 crore, Uttar Pradesh for ₹ 2057.79 crore and Telangana for ₹ 1846.60 crore from NDRF.

As regards suicides by farmers in these States, based on the reports received from them, the details including reasons are given in the Statement (*See* below). These figures are for the period beginning January, 2015.

(c) Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) have visited the States of Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Reports have been submitted by the IMCTs of Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Report of Central Teams of Karnataka and Chhattisgarh were considered by the Sub-Committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC). Recommendation of SC-NEC was considered by HLC and an amount of ₹ 1540.20 crore has been approved for Karnataka from NDRF. Recommendation of SC-NEC in respect of Chhattisgarh has been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs for consideration of HLC. IMCT has been constituted and the team has visited the affected areas of Maharashtra from 19th to 22nd November, 2015. IMCT of Odisha and Uttar Pradesh have also been constituted to visit the affected areas. IMCT for Telangana is being constituted.

Government believes, that farmers welfare will improve if there is increase in net income from the farms. With this end in view, the approach is to reduce cost of cultivation, enable higher yield per unit and realize remunerative prices. Some of the important new initiatives in this context are :

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the exact nutrient level available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and save money. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability to the crop and cut on cost. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured urea is now neem coated.
- (iii) Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promoting organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices.

- (iv) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is another innovative scheme to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.
- (v) The Government is also implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes - National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET); National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP); Unified National Agriculture Markets; and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- (vi) The Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared by the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States). Profit, if any, earned by the procuring agencies is retained by them.

Statement

Number of suicides by farmers as reported by State Governments

Sl. No.	State	2015	Reported on	Reasons
1.	Karnataka	107	22-07-2015	Burden of loan
2.	Chhattisgarh	Not Reported	-	-
3.	Madhya Pradesh	0	08-06-2015	-
4.	Maharashtra	725	30-09-2015	Agrarian reasons
5.	Odisha	0	20-07-2015	-
6.	Uttar Pradesh	0	16-07-2015	-
7.	Telangana	Not Reported	20-07-2015	-
8.	Andhra Pradesh	28	24-07-2015	Agrarian reasons